

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 07450 122123Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /098 W
-----020598 122127Z /63

P 121731Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8693
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELIZE CITY PRIORITY

UNCLAS KINGSTON 7450

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, BH, JM

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVEN CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES -- BARBADOS, GRENADA, GUYANA, JAMAICA, PANAMA,
SURINAM AND VENEZUELA -- MET IN KINGSTON DECEMBER 9-10
TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF GUATEMALA'S
TERRITORIAL CLAIMS ON BELIZE AND THE EFFECT OF THOSE
CLAIMS ON BELIZE'S PROGRESS TOWARD INDEPENDENCE. THE
PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED:

BARBADOS: DONALD BLACKMAN

GRENADA: HENRY BULLEN

GUYANA: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER HUBERT JACK

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JAMAICA: FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON

PANAMA: FOREIGN MINISTER NICOLAS
GONZALES REVILLA

SURINAM: HENRICUS A. HEIDWILLER

VENEZUELA: FOREIGN MINISTER SIMON BOTTARO
GONSALVI

MIXICO'S ISMAEL MORANO WAS PRESENT AS AN OBSERVER AS
WAS BELIZE'S PREMIER GEORGE PRICE.

2. AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE, THE PARTICIPANTS
ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH CALLED FOR "AN EARLY,
PEACEFUL AND SECURE INDEPENDENCE WHICH GUARANTEES THE
UNIMPEDED DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE". THE
PARTICIPANTS THEN DECLARED:

"THAT FRUSTRATION OF THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF THE
PEOPLE OF BELIZE TO INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTES AN INTOLERABLE
SITUATION, THE CONTINUATION OF WHICH COULD HAVE SERIOUS
IMPLICATIONS FOR PEACE IN THE REGION AND COULD INHIBIT
THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HARMONIOUS RELATIONS AMONG
STATES IN THE HEMISPHERE AND BEYOND;

"THAT THERE CAN BE NO LASTING SETTLEMENT OF THE CONTROVERSY
WITHOUT THE FULL CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE
OF BELIZE AND CONSEQUENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE MUST
BE FULLY INVOLVED IN ALL CONSULTATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS
AIMED AT ACHIEVING A SOLUTION;

"THAT THE PARTIES CONCERNED MUST URGENTLY SEEK A PEACEFUL
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SOLUTION TO THE CONTROVERSY WHICH ENSURES THE SPEEDY
ATTAINMENT OF A SECURE INDEPENDENCE BY BELIZE ON THE
BASIS OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY;

"THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT, BY DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER METHODS
AS APPROPRIATE, TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BELIZE,
TO SECURE A SOLUTION THAT IS PEACEFUL, JUST AND LASTING;

"THEIR READINESS TO GIVE THEIR FULL COOPERATION TO ALL
EFFORTS DESIGNED TO REALISE THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS
DECLARATION."

3. IN A BRIEF STATEMENT AT THE END OF THE MEETING,
JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON SAID THAT REPORTS IN
THE BRITISH PRESS SUGGESTED THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE
TAKING PLACE WHICH CONTEMPLATE THE CESSION OF BELIZEAN
TERRITORY TO GUATEMALA. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WAS
NOT PROPER FOR THE MEETING'S PARTICIPANTS TO PASS JUDGEMENT
ON THE REPORTS, "EXCEPTING THAT THEY FILL US WITH
CONSIDERABLE CONCERN." HE ADDED THAT THE BELIZEANS SHOULD
BE A PARTY TO SETTLING THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE AND
EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT NO PRESSURE WOULD BE EXERTED ON

THE BELIZEANS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770462-0449
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771267/aaaacena.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3d903806-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 273366
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20041130
Subject: TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
TAGS: PBOR, BH, JM, XM, XL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3d903806-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009